

**CONFIDENTIAL**

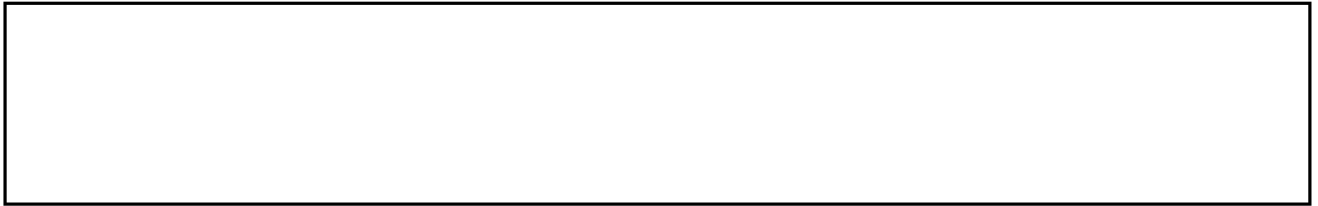
NSC BRIEFING

4 March 1958

**RYUKYU ISLANDS (OKINAWA)**

- I. Elections for 29-seat unicameral legislature take place 16 March.
- II. Political parties participating range from conservative Ryukyu Democratic Party through moderate left-of-center Okinawa Socialist Masses Party to pro-Communist Liaison Council for the Protection of Democracy (LCPD) which *is controlled by* ~~has absorbed~~ the Okinawa Peoples Party.
  - A. Elections since 1956 in Naha, the capital, have shown growing leftist trend.
    1. Pro-Communist Senaga backed by Okinawa Peoples Party elected mayor in 1956.
      - a. Leftist victories resulted from:
        - (1) Exploitation of discontent with US land acquisition and compensation policies,
        - (2) Nationalistic sentiment for reversion to Japan.
    2. LCPD emerged as union extreme socialists and Peoples Party.
      - a. This grouping camouflages Communists ties, and will probably attract some protest votes from the Socialists.

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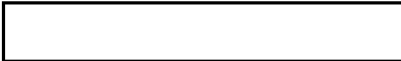


IV. Japanese Government officially accepts present status of Ryukyus--  
US control and Japanese residual sovereignty.

A. Japanese Socialists, however, demand for return of Ryukyus  
to embarrass Kishi.

1. Kishi is likely to be forced to take public positions on  
Ryukyuan campaign issues, such as reversion, in opposition  
to US policies.

V. Election forecast difficult since campaign only 10 days old.

A.  conservative prospects appear favorable  
in countryside.

1. Efforts by conservatives and moderate socialists to combine  
on candidates may restrict leftist gains.

B. LCPD appears likely to gain seats in the Naha area.

C. Democratic party probably will lose majority in legislature,  
leftists will gain seats--possibly increasing their  
representation to seven (out of 29)--but independents will  
hold balance of power.

D. In any event every candidate and party is likely to eschew  
identification with the US administration and in varying  
degrees criticize US authorities.

E. Lt. Gen. Moore, US High Commissioner is deeply concerned  
over the threat to American security interests posed by the  
leftist trend on Okinawa.